

## Farmer's Market Auditions Thursday Night Appearance in Downtown Torrance

If you need one more reason to visit Downtown Torrance in the evening, here it is! In addition to great restaurants and quaint shops, Downtown now has its own mini Farmer's Market every Thursday night. "We block off the end of El Prado and fifteen or sixteen farmer's sell fresh, locally grown, fruit, vegetables, honey, flowers, cheese and nuts," said market manager, Mary Lou Weiss. A DJ provides up tempo background music while the farmers offer the most beautiful products you'll find anywhere in the South Bay at great prices. Many local restaurants offer Market Night Specials, a great way

to get an introduction to the growing number of Downtown eateries.

Chef Michael Shafer, owner of the Depot Restaurant and Buffalo Fire Department (BFD) suggested having a farmers market downtown. The city launched a six month pilot program that will be evaluated in September.

Economic Development put out a directory of all the Downtown restaurants for market shoppers. The market is open from 4:00p.m. to 8:00p.m. every Thursday night. There is plenty of free street parking and lots of terrific places to eat so, come on down! **I•B**



Mary Lou Weiss and Chef Michael Shafer



A Restaurant Guide is available at the Market Manager booth. Many restaurants have Market Night Specials.

Who can resist all these beautiful locally grown products?

**WHAT'S INSIDE**

**page 2** Benefits  
Plan Ahead...

**page 4** Working in  
the Field...

**page 5** What  
it Takes...

# Benefits Plan Ahead. . .Be Prepared



## Year 2011

- Health, Dental, Vision: Open Enrollment for Health, Dental, Vision will be held from October 10, 2011 to November 3, 2011. Don't forget to review your current benefits. If you want to make any changes for 2012 you must do so during the open enrollment period. After the open enrollment period ends, there is no opportunity to make changes until next year's open enrollment in 2012 for 2013.
- The insurance carriers will be available to discuss your insurance needs at the Health Fair on October 12, 2011.
- Flexible Spending Account (Ben-a-flex): Open Enrollment will be held from November 7, 2011 to November 23, 2011. Start planning now to make any adjustments or changes to your flexible spending account. You will need to make those changes during the open enrollment period. Once the open enrollment ends, you will not have any other opportunity to make changes until next year's open enrollment in 2012.

## Year 2012

- Spending Account (FSA): Sheakley announces that FSA participants enrolled in the dependent care plan are now able to utilize the 2 ½ month extension to incur services previously only associated with the Health Care plan. Just like the healthcare FSA you are now able to incur dependent care expenses through March 15th of the 2012 plan year to absorb any unused funds from the plan year ending December 31, 2011.
- Flexible Spending Account: Don't forget that the maximum annual limit of \$6,000 for health reimbursable account remains the same for 2012.

## Year 2013

- Flexible Spending Account: The maximum annual limit may be capped at \$2,500 in 2013.  
Communications will be sent out regarding premium changes and open enrollment in the Fall.

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## Employees – You can Subscribe to Info-Bits online!

**Y**ou can read Info-Bits and get other city information online at home by registering at <http://www.torranceca.gov/20726.htm> for the eNotify service. You can choose from a menu of update notifications for a number of city websites including Info-Bits, just check off the items you are interested in. This service was developed for the city's retired employees but you can use it too! Here is the process to sign up:



- **Log In**
- **Click e-notify**
- **Click webpage subscription**
- **Under Human Resources is Retiree Resources**
- **Check Retiree Resources box**
- **Click save on bottom of page**
- **A message on top of page will say "Database updated successfully"**
- **Exit or log out**

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## New Employees

4/11 - 6/11

### Transit

Jameelah A.Clark  
Victor Gonzales Jr  
Freddie Marlowe III  
Anesha N.Lee  
Keith E.Wright  
Relief Bus Operator

### Police continued

Eric M.Bernier  
Police Officer  
  
Antonio D.Gonzalez  
Police Officer

### Police

Julianne Earheart  
Public Safety Dispatcher

### General Services

Michael G.Lanning  
Electrician

## Retirees

4/11 - 6/11

Name	Title	Ret Date	Years of Svc.
Ian Burnett	Fire Engineer	3/29/2011	27
William Byron	Systems Analyst	4/30/2011	25
Adela Castro	Sr. Administrative Assistant	4/29/2011	22
Jennifer Gough	Systems Analyst	6/8/2011	11
John Kulluk	Hazard Materials Analyst	5/31/2011	22
Velma Lew	Accountant	4/11/2011	13
Michael Martinet	Area G Emergency Coord.	4/29/2011	15
Thomas O'Brien	Info Technology Analyst	5/9/2011	11
Sharon Taylor	Secretary	5/1/2011	6

## Promotions

4/11 - 6/11

### CIT

Michael Pan  
Information Technology Analyst

### Police

Hector R.Bermudez III  
Police Lieutenant

### Human Resources

Terri L.Connaughton  
Workers Compensation Manager  
  
Shawn P. Plunkett  
Home Improvement Program  
Supervisor

Eric M.Williams  
Police Sergeant



## Blood Drive Stats

74 City Employees participated in the June 8, 2011 Blood Drive. 64 appointments were scheduled, and 62 units of whole blood were collected – ten more than our goal! Thanks to everyone who donated blood, we know that many, many lives are affected by your generosity.

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## Centennial Update Lights, Camera, Action!

Be a Part of Torrance History!

The Torrance Centennial Committee invites you to participate in the spectacular kick-off event of the year-long City of Torrance Centennial Celebration. On Sunday, November 6, 2011 starting at 4:00 p.m., an official Centennial photograph will be taken from the Goodyear Blimp. Participants will be given flashlights and positions in a pattern spelling out, "TORRANCE 1912-2012" at Wilson Park. About 3,000 people will be included in this event, admission is \$5.00 and the flashlight, provided by Torrance's own Pelican Products, is yours to keep.

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**Space is limited, register online at  
[www.torrancecentennial.org/events/lights-camera-action](http://www.torrancecentennial.org/events/lights-camera-action).**

## Moments in Torrance History

By: Michael George

Fifty years ago, in 1961, when Del Amo was still open to the sky, J.C. Penney's opened a 70,000 square foot, "multi-million dollar" store in Torrance. Penney's has a long history in Torrance. Originally opened in 1929, for the considerably more modest sum of \$13,000 and only at 5,700 square feet, Penney's was a staple at 1269 Sartori in Old Torrance for over 15 years. Sensing the opportunities as the city grew toward the west and the advantage of being one of the three anchors of the glittering Del Amo Center, Ken Doyle, Penney's manager said, "We are fully confident that the Del Amo Center in Torrance will prove to be one of the South Bay's most outstanding shopping districts." And so it has been for over fifty years.



1929 ad for Penney's in the Torrance Herald



1961 Penney's at Del Amo, Torrance Herald

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## CALENDAR

**Torrance Employee Variety Show Benefitting the American Cancer Society & Torrance Relay for Life**

James R. Armstrong Theatre  
September 10, 2011 7pm  
Tickets \$15

If you have a unique talent/act or if you are interested in volunteering for this year's Torrance Variety Show by working behind the scenes (concession, back stage, raffle tables, etc.) or if you can donate a gift basket or raffle prize, please contact Linda Cessna at 310-618-5930 or Carolyn Chun at 310-618-5869. Purchase tickets from Leslie Cortez at 310-618-5864

**California Coastal Clean Up Day Torrance Beach**  
Saturday, September 17, 2011  
9am to noon

For more information contact:  
Beach Captains: John Dettle or Jeff Kidd @ 310-781-6900  
Co-Captains: Cyndy Rosell or Leslie Cortez @ 310-618-5990

**City of Torrance Employee Health Fair**  
October 12, 2011  
11:00a.m. to 3:00p.m.  
Toyota Meeting Hall

**Centennial Kick Off**  
Sunday, November 6, 2011  
Wilson Park  
Lights, Camera, Action!  
See article at left.

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# Working in the Field: Public Works - Street Operations

**Steven Cooper**  
Manager Street Operations Division

**Steve Robinson**  
Supervisor Street Maintenance

**Marco Gonzales**  
Supervisor Concrete

**Rich Hall**  
Supervisor Traffic & Lighting

*"Street Operations employees are a cohesive labor force, a dynamic team with great camaraderie, extreme productivity, professionalism and a high level of pride in their work. Our team possesses a wide diversity of skills, talents and knowledge to accomplish the variety of jobs they do. We consider the service to and safety of our citizens to be our primary cause."*

Steven Cooper, Manager  
Street Operations Division.

## Street Operations Stats

3 Sections – Street Maintenance (18), Concrete (10),  
Traffic & Lighting (10)  
1 Manager, 3 Supervisors, 38 Crew members

### Streets

- 293 Miles of City-owned roadways
  - 69,100,000 square feet of pavement
- 26 Miles of Alleys
  - 2,000,000 square feet of pavement
- 10 Miles of State Highways
- 329 Total Street Miles – 847 Lane Miles

### Sumps / Open Ditches

- 12 – City Owned Retention Basins
- 1.5 Miles open flood control channels

### Equipment

- 4 – Asphalt Patch Trucks
- 3 – 7 Yard 10 Wheel Dump Trucks
- 5 – 5 Yard Bobtail Dump Trucks
- 4 – Tractors
- 4 – 5 Ton Rollers
- 2 – Rubber Tire Loaders
- 1 – Backhoe
- 1 – Asphalt Grinding Machine
- 2 – Crack-Sealing Machines

### Asphalt Repairs

- |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| • Removal/Replacement | 273,000 Square Feet |
| • Surface Capping     | 225,600 Square Feet |
| • Potholes Filled     | 22,700 Square Feet  |
| • Asphalt Tons Used   | 6,800 Tons          |
| • Crack-Sealing       | 93,000 Lineal Feet  |



Continued on Page 6



**T**erri Connaughton's latest promotion could win her the designation as the "poster child" for the city's employee training programs. Her experience in the division began in 1992 when she was hired as a typist clerk in Human Resources' Worker's Compensation Division in 1992. Nearly 20 years later with encouragement and support of supervisors and peers, a lot of hard work, certification classes, and city career training, Connaughton was officially installed as the manager of that same division in May of 2011.

"When I first started with the city, I was unsure of my career direction. My supervisor at the time, Janet Kiley, suggested I take certification classes from the Insurance Educational Association (IEA), which I did. I took all the classes the city offered like, So You Want to be a Supervisor, and instruction in how to write a resume, how to interview for a job, all the basics of climbing the career ladder. I became a Claims Tech, then a Claims Examiner and passed the state required Self-Insurance Plans Administrator Certification Test."

The city's move-up program gave Connaughton the opportunity to try out the Manager position before she

## What it Takes Terri Connaughton Workers Comp Manager



actually applied for it. "I didn't apply for the job the first time around, I wasn't sure I was ready to take that step. I had big shoes to fill, I needed to think it over," she said. When the opportunity came around again, Connaughton had an epiphany. "I realized that I had been blessed with a second chance and that my then peers who were so supportive and hard working would be on my team, which gave me the confidence to throw my hat in the ring."

Terri Connaughton and her husband, Mike, are lifelong Torrance residents. Terri is a graduate of Torrance High, mom of two grown children and loves to garden, discover new restaurants and enjoys life in Torrance. **I•B**

## Torrance Transit Debuts New Bus Book

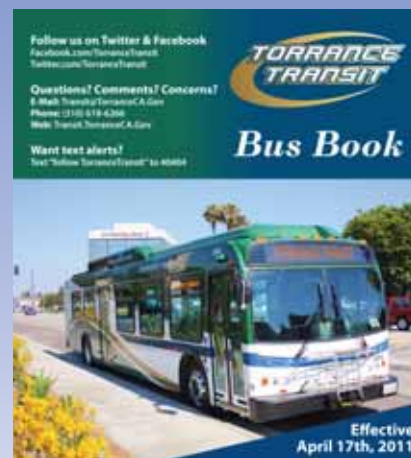
*Information also on Google, Twitter, Facebook*

**T**orrance Transit (TT) began distributing its new "Bus Book" in April 2011 as part of its ongoing rebranding efforts. For the first time, customers will have all the routes and schedules in one easy-to-navigate publication. Bus schedules are known for being either too complex or too simplistic, but this new publication is easy to understand and contains all the routes and schedules in the system. But, you don't need to have a Bus Book to plan your public transit travel; you can access all the information you need on your computer or smart phone.

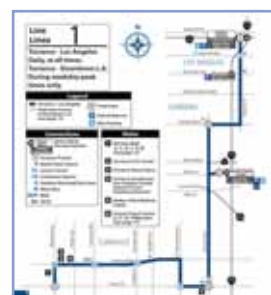
"We are the only South Bay agency on Google Maps right now," said Bradley Tollison, Transit Intern & public transit enthusiast. "This gives our patrons the ability to travel spontaneously by choosing the public transit option when planning a trip online. Metro and Santa Monica are also on Google Maps so people can really get around," he continued. Tollison made a personal project of visiting approximately 850 TT bus stops to acquire the GPS coordinates required by Google Maps to include the agency in its public transit option.

In addition, bus patrons can access up-to-the-minute service alerts from Torrance Transit on Twitter and Facebook. "People can use their smartphones to get our tweets or even use their Google Maps application to show them where they are on the route and use the "navigation" option on Android devices that will even vibrate when approaching their stop," said Ian Dailey, Staff Assistant. Dailey and Tollison are credited with moving the agency toward state-of-the-art online communications technology.

Torrance Transit has a bus order of 20 new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) buses to be delivered in the Fall of 2011 and has begun repainting some of the older buses to match the new branding. The new bus books are available on board all Torrance Transit buses, at all Torrance libraries, El Camino College, the West Annex as well as many other locations. You can have one mailed to you by contacting the Torrance Transit Administration office at 310-618-6266.



Line 1		Weekdays - Entire Schedule	
Stop	Time	Stop	Time
1	6:00 AM	1	6:00 AM
2	6:15 AM	2	6:15 AM
3	6:30 AM	3	6:30 AM
4	6:45 AM	4	6:45 AM
5	7:00 AM	5	7:00 AM
6	7:15 AM	6	7:15 AM
7	7:30 AM	7	7:30 AM
8	7:45 AM	8	7:45 AM
9	8:00 AM	9	8:00 AM
10	8:15 AM	10	8:15 AM
11	8:30 AM	11	8:30 AM
12	8:45 AM	12	8:45 AM
13	9:00 AM	13	9:00 AM
14	9:15 AM	14	9:15 AM
15	9:30 AM	15	9:30 AM
16	9:45 AM	16	9:45 AM
17	10:00 AM	17	10:00 AM
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92	4:45 AM	92	4:45 AM
93	5:00 AM	93	5:00 AM
94	5:15 AM	94	5:15 AM
95	5:30 AM	95	5:30 AM
96	5:45 AM	96	5:45 AM
97	6:00 AM	97	6:00 AM
98	6:15 AM	98	6:15 AM
99	6:30 AM	99	6:30 AM
100	6:45 AM	100	6:45 AM



**I•B**

## Torrance TRIVIA

Last Issue Question:

*Today there is no end of online resources to find and keep in touch with people. What resource in the newly debuted Library archives (<http://www.torranceca.gov/libraryarchive/>) can be used to discover past Torrance resident's occupation, address, career and more?*

The answer is, **The City Directory** in the newly launched online **Historic Database**.

We had one correct responder to this question, congratulations, **Jeanne Fuller!**

New Question:

*"Century City in Torrance", 1967 was a boom year in Torrance; plans were laid for a major building project. Plans included a mono-rail, three major high-rise office buildings, unique auxiliary buildings set in park like surroundings. Can you name the project and how much of it was actually built?*

Please send your answers to [JanetStancliff3@gmail.com](mailto:JanetStancliff3@gmail.com)



## Guess Who??

Last Issue Question was a Guess What!

This piece of equipment may not get used every day but it is essential to the work of a certain division. Name the Division, Department and the function of this piece of equipment. Extra points for correctly naming the equipment.

The Answer is: **Public Works, Streets & Sidewalks division A Lightening Loader or Knuckleboom Clam** used to lift heavy pieces of concrete in sidewalk removal.

Congratulations to: **Jeff Cryderman** for providing the correct answer.



Submit all game responses, employee news and calendar items to: [JanetStancliff3@gmail.com](mailto:JanetStancliff3@gmail.com)

## Public Works - Street Operations continued from Page 4

### Traffic & Lighting

- 120 Signalized Intersections
- Outdoor Public Lighting
- 847 lane miles roadways to paint
- Signage: Street Name, Guide, Regulatory

### Equipment

- 1-Highway Striper
- 2-Stencil Trucks
- 1-Thermal Plastic trailer
- 3-35' Bucket trucks
- 1-Sign truck
- 1-Knuckle boom crane

### Sandbags

- 3000 filled sandbags handed out to over 150 City of Torrance residents

### Sump/Ditch maintenance

- Over 2700 man-hours maintaining City owned sumps and ditches

### Torrance Airport field maintenance

- Over 1300 man-hours maintaining fields in Torrance Airport

